

One of the greatest obstacles to those, who have depended upon the assumed translation of the critical words, "*vínber*," "*hveiti*," and "*mǫsurr*" as Grape, Indian Corn or Wild Rice, and Maple, has been the reconciliation of the comparatively southern range of these plants with the accounts of the natives of Vínland. These people, the "Skrellings" "were small ('swarthy' in one version) men, and ill-looking, and the hair of their heads was ugly. They had great eyes, and were broad of cheek," and they came in "skin-canoes." Nearly all students of the sagas have agreed that these *seem to be* Esquimaux; but, in order to make the natives of Vínland, the "Skrellings," fit the geographic distribution of the Grape, many arguments, not at all convincing, have been put forward to prove, either that the Esquimaux formerly came to the coasts south of the St. Lawrence, or that, after all, the "Skrellings" were really Indians. Without entering now upon that question, which would lead us far from the subject of the present paper, it may be stated: that the mass of evidence which the writer has in hand, and which will soon be ready for publication, makes it clear that, if we read the sagas in the light of what we know of the abundant occurrence north of the St. Lawrence of the "*vínber*" (*Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea* or possibly *Ribes triste*, *R. prostratum*, or *R. lacustre*), "*hveiti*" (*Elymus arenarius*) and "*mǫsurr*" (*Betula alba*, i. e. *B. papyrifera* of many botanists), the discrepancies in geography, ethnology, and zoölogy, which have been so troublesome in the past, will disappear; other features, usually considered obscure, will become luminous; and the older and less distorted sagas, at least in their main incidents, will become vivid records of actual geographic exploration.

GRAY HERBARIUM, Harvard University.

THE EXTENSION OF SOME RANGES IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

K. M. WIEGAND.

IN the April 1909 number of RHODORA there was published a list of rare plants found in the vicinity of Wellesley, Mass., in 1907 and 1908. During the past summer the survey of the Wellesley flora has been continued with the result that the following localities were found

for plants which ordinarily are supposed to be rare in Eastern Massachusetts, or have not heretofore been known in that region.

CYPERUS ARISTATUS Roth. This plant was found about the middle of August in great abundance below high water mark on the sandy strand surrounding Heard's Pond, Wayland. Later it was found in considerable abundance in a similar location at the southern end of Lake Cochituate. The plant is very local in Eastern Massachusetts. It has been found at Mystic Pond by Manning and Perkins, and at Brookfield by Harper (see herbarium of New England Botanical Club). Mr. F. F. Forbes informs me that he found it in 1904 and 1905 at Lake Cochituate.

HEMICARPHA MICRANTHA (Vahl.) Pax. This was found also in great abundance mixed with the last named plant on the strand of Heard's Pond. It was also found on the strand along the western shore of Farm Pond, Sherborn. This likewise seems to be a very local plant in Eastern Massachusetts, except possibly in the Cape Cod region where it is more abundant. There are specimens in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club from Andover (*Blake*), and Brookfield (*Harper*). It has also been found by several botanists at Winter Pond, Winchester; and Mr. Forbes has collected it on a gravelly bank of the Charles River at Cow Bay, West Roxbury.

POTENTILLA PALUSTRIS (L.) Scop., var. *VILLOSA* (Pers.) Lehm. The plants of this species growing about the mill pond in the Charles River at South Natick have leaves densely silky beneath and from slightly to very conspicuously silky above, and glandular inflorescence. They should therefore be referred to this variety. Heretofore this variety apparently has not been known from south of Washington County, Maine, and the St. Lawrence System.

VIOLA AFFINIS LeConte. A strange violet was found in considerable abundance in a rather low wild woodland on the east bank of the Charles River about one mile below Wellesley. It proved to be very typical *V. affinis* which, so far as the writer can learn, has not previously been reported from east of the Connecticut River.

ARALIA NUDICAULIS L., var. *ELONGATA* Nash. A patch of very peculiar looking wild sarsaparilla occurs in a woodland region just south of the Charles River at a point directly south of Needham Village. The narrowly lanceolate, long-acuminate leaflets agree well with Mr. Nash's description of this variety which he reported only from the Catskill Mts., New York.